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INSURANCE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ANTHEM BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD – LRGHEALTHCARE
REACH AGREEMENT**

New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Paula Rogers is pleased to announce that Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Lakes Region General Healthcare have reached agreement on a four-year contract. After conferring with both sides on numerous occasions to determine the cause of the April 1 breakdown in negotiations, Commissioner Rogers asked the parties to reopen contract negotiations and proceed with a department facilitated mediation effort. The mediation was conducted by a professional mediator selected by Commissioner Rogers from a list of candidates proposed and agreed to by the parties. Mediation has allowed the parties to resolve the disputed issues, and achieve agreement on a long-term contract. Commissioner Rogers stated that, "The successful resolution of the impasse in negotiations with a four-year contract promotes long-term stability for the contracting parties and ensures that persons in the Lakes Region covered by Anthem will continue to have access to their physicians and their local hospital."